

Committee of Thirteen Report

June 13, 2006

The Committee of Thirteen of the Benton County Quorum Court met Tuesday, June 13, 2006 at 5:00 P.M. in the Quorum Court Room, County Administration Building, Third Floor, 215 East Central, Bentonville, Arkansas.

10 JPs Present:	Adams, Harrison, Moore, Sampier, Schindler, Sheridan, Stephenson, Summers, Wolf, Wozniak
3 Absent:	Allen, Hill, Tharp
Others Present:	Ed Gartin, Richard McComas, Travis Harp
Media:	Jennifer Turner – Daily Record, Joe Askins – Morning News

JP Tim Summers called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Robert Kossieck stated that he has visited with residents of the War Eagle area, and they are in favor of the second option for rehabilitating the War Eagle Bridge, and so is he, but they do not want anyone to dink around with the approach to the bridge, because they feel it has held up for 100 years the way it is and they are afraid that if the approach is made higher it will look goofy. He repeated his earlier request that the public be allowed to comment after discussion of each agenda item. He added that due to traffic it takes him an hour to get here if he leaves at 4:15, but if he leaves at 4:00 it only takes him 30 minutes, so “this 5 o’clock has got to cease”.

Don Day stated that a recent headline was misleading, and that the property rights group is not opposed to a septic tank ordinance if they feel it has some value to it.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion: War Eagle Bridge Rehabilitation Recommendation From Long Range Planning Committee – JP Kurt Moore

JP Moore stated that the Long Range Planning/Properties and Equipment Committee is recommending Garver Engineering’s Option #2 after a lengthy discussion with War Eagle residents. He said that Option #1 does not do enough to strengthen the bridge, and Option #3 does not do that much more to strengthen the bridge for the amount of money it will cost. He also said that they have met with Piney Point Fire Chief Gene Williams, and are suggesting that a second tanker truck be housed on the south side of the bridge in order to cover the fire protection needs of the area without having to cross the bridge. JP Summers asked if it will be necessary to appropriate the grant money and the additional funds from Capital Projects at this time. County Attorney Ed Gartin stated that the first step will be to authorize the County Judge to seek bids for the project. JP Moore made motion to forward a Resolution authorizing the County Judge to seek bids for Option #2 to the June 22, 2006 Quorum Court meeting, seconded by JP Sheridan.

JP Stephenson asked what the replacement plans are for three other bridges in the county that are in JP Moore’s district, including Fisher Ford. JP Moore stated that there are no plans at the present time, but at the Nicodemus Town Hall meeting the residents indicated that a low-water pontoon style bridge would be acceptable as a replacement for the Fisher Ford Bridge, and he would like to see a cost estimate from the Road Department at a future Long Range Planning meeting. He said that the old humpback bridge at Chamber Springs is not necessary, because Kinchloe Road, which ties into Chamber Springs, meets the highway one mile further down the road. He said that the road

on either side of the Kinchloe Bridge has been closed, so that bridge is not needed either. He said there is a possibility of rehabilitation of the bridge on Colonel Myers Road south of Cave Springs but they do not have cost estimates yet. JP Sheridan asked if grant money was a possibility for any of the other bridges. JP Moore stated that the reason the War Eagle Bridge qualifies for grant money is that it connects to a state highway, and the other bridges only connect county roads. JP Stephenson stated that he is concerned with spending approximately \$250,000 of County General funds when they are facing the prospect of losing at least one third of their tax base if Bella Vista incorporates. He said that he experienced some consternation when he turned on the television and saw a guided tour of the Juvenile Detention Center expressing the need for rebuilding or expansion, which he does not doubt is necessary, but he wondered what the priorities are when they are spending money fixing a bridge that he personally doubts the residents even want fixed. JP Wolf referred to the traffic count that was performed and asked if there are other bridges in the county in need of repair that handle more traffic. JP Moore stated that he is not aware of any, and does not recall what the traffic counts were on Fisher Ford before it was closed over a year ago, but did not think it was that high. JP Adams asked what the results were of the Long Range Planning Committee survey which was taken several months ago. JP Moore stated he did not recall the exact order, but that War Eagle Bridge was in the top three. JP Adams stated that he recalled that the other two were the Juvenile Detention Center and the Road Department Maintenance Facility. Motion passed by a show of hands vote: 9 yeas, 1 against (JP Stephenson).

2. Appropriation Ordinance Request – Juvenile Detention Center and Information Systems

Comptroller Richard McComas stated that the digital video recorder that the JDC uses for security is not working, and they are moving money from a grant project to pay for a new camera and server so the purchase will not require any additional funds. He stated that Article 2 of the ordinance is to appropriate \$20,000 for the Cooperative Program that Information Systems is participating in with Washington County, which will be funded by a grant from the United States Geological Survey. JP Stephenson asked if it was legal to include both items in the same appropriation ordinance. County Attorney Ed Gartin stated that it was. Comptroller Richard McComas stated that they would have saved the JDC transfer for the year-end cleanup ordinance but the grant expires at the end of June, and it was his understanding that the Quorum Court had asked that the requests be combined whenever possible. JP Summers stated that was correct and to continue the practice when possible. JP Adams made motion to forward the appropriation ordinance request to the June 22, 2006 Quorum Court meeting, seconded by JP Moore. Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

3. Report: Election Commission Cargo Van Purchase

JP Summers stated that Election Coordinator Jim McCarthy had presented a request to the June 6, 2006 Finance Committee meeting for a cargo van to deliver election materials to the polling sites on election days. He said that they were able to purchase a used van with money they had in their budget, so no action will be necessary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

JP Summers announced that the next Quorum Court meeting would be June 22, 2006 at 5:00 p.m.

JP Wozniak announced that the Environmental Committee would be meeting on June 20, 2006 at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.